

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 25, 2010
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ronald Turbin, Vice Chairman, David A. Rempell, Thomas E. Sheldon

Absent: Tom Costley, Jane B. Allen

Others Present: Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin read excerpts of a letter dated January 11, 2010 from Catherine Brown, State Public Health Veterinarian of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health commending Animal Control Officer Jacqueline Lemieux for her quick and professional response to a recent rabies situation. Mr. Turbin included the last paragraph that read the "MDPH" works frequently with local agencies following-up on potential rabies exposures and Officer Lemieux's responsiveness in this situation was noteworthy. Although the events took place in part, after business hours, Officer Lemieux was available and responded quickly and reliably over several days, continuously updating the on call epidemiologist from MDPH. Ms. Brown commended Officer Lemieux's professionalism and willingness to respond.

Mr. Turbin also praised the public works department on their continuous work in keeping the roads at their best.

2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** January 11, 2010 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the January 11, 2010 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

- A. 2010 Berkshire Humane Society Race – Although Ms. Cabral was not present, Mr. Fohlin explained the route for the Berkshire Humane Society Race to be held on Saturday, May 8 using the same route as last year, starting in front of the Brown's on Water Street at 10 a.m. Ms. Cabral is working with the police department regarding lane closures on Water Street and Spring Street. The race will accommodate runners and walkers and it should finish by noon. Chief Johnson told Mr. Fohlin that he has worked well with Ms. Cabral and the race organizers in the past and had no problems with the route. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the route for the 2010 Berkshire Humane Society Race. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. 2010 Agricultural Preservation Restriction -Municipal Application – The application was presented at the last selectmen's meeting and tabled until this meeting due to questions regarding the criteria. At the request of the Board, Mr. Fohlin met with Williamstown Rural Lands Director Leslie Reed-Evans for clarification, mainly #13. Mr. Fohlin and Ms. Reed-Evans concluded that #13 was not applicable because records are not available that the Town had exercised or assigned to a non-profit land preservation organization the municipal Right-of-First Refusal any 61A withdrawals in the past. The criteria were corrected and two applications were presented for selectmen signatures, one for Fairfields Dairy LLC and the other for James Galusha along with a map of the two parcels. It was noted that each property had a different owner. It was noted that the state match reflects a 5% reduction from the 20% target for each action criteria item (6, 7, and 8). Mr. Fohlin added that Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation has presented an

application to the Community Preservation Committee for the 5%. Mr. Rempell moved to sign the APR-Muni Applications for James Galusha and another one for Fairfields Dairy LLC. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- C. 2010 Town Election Calendar – Set Dates and Times for Warrant, Election and Annual Town Meeting –** Mr. Rempell moved to set the date and times for the Town Election on May 11, 2010 from 7am to 8pm at the Williamstown Elementary School and Town Meeting on May 18 at 7pm at the Williamstown Elementary School. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fohlin announced the positions that residents can take papers out for in the upcoming election, Moderator (1) for 3 years, Selectmen (2) for three years, Elementary School Committee (2) for 3 years, Library Trustees (2) for three years, Housing Authority (1) for 4 years and (1) for five years, Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District (1) for three years, and Planning Board (1) for five years.
- 4. PETITIONER’S REQUEST:** None
- 5. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:** See attached
- 6. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Sheldon asked Mr. Fohlin if he has gotten an update from the legislature regarding the Board of Library Trustees increase in members from five to seven. Mr. Fohlin said he had not. Mr. Sheldon said he hoped the bill would pass in time for the local election in May so that 4 seats could be filled then. In addition to the two trustee vacancies at the Library Board, there is a one-year position currently held by Peter Mehlin.
- 7. ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon
Secretary